

1AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 MAY 2006

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :  
Tadashi SAO et al. :  
Serial No New-Nat'l phase of :  
PCT/JP2005/009451 :  
International filing date: May 24, 2005 :  
For: BRANCHING PIPE JOINT AND :  
AN AIR CONDITIONER PROVIDED :  
THEREWITH (As Amended) :

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants bring the references listed on the attached PTO-1449-Form to the Examiner's attention and request that they be considered and made of record in this application.

Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 04-97263 appears to disclose a refrigerant flow diverter having a bypass pipe.

Japanese Laid Open Publication No. 2752194 appears to disclose an air conditioner unit with switching valves.

Japanese 1998 Cooling and Heating Handbook, Air Conditioning Volume, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. discloses information relating to installation cooling system. This publication discloses various Y-shaped branch pipes.

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Reg. No. 32,383

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Dated: 5-30-06

2002. QMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**Complete if Known**

## PC 1205009451

(use as many sheets as necessary)

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Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	DK-US040366

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Examiner Signature	/Mohammad Ali/ (01/28/2009)
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Date Considered

01/28/2009

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04.

<sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the

Enter Office that issued the document, by the truncated code of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>3</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>4</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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